

**Security Council**

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), in which the Council requested me to submit quarterly reports on the situation in Somalia. It covers developments since my last report of 16 April 2009 (S/2009/210) and focuses, in particular, on political developments and the recent fighting in Mogadishu between forces of the Transitional Federal Government and insurgent groups. The report also includes a review of the security situation in Somalia, the activities undertaken to assist the Transitional Federal Government in developing its transitional security institutions, the role of AMISOM in stabilizing security, the humanitarian and human rights situation and the operational activities of the United Nations agencies and programmes in Somalia.

II. Main developments in Somalia**A. Political developments**

2. President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the unity government continued to engage with opposition groups still outside the Djibouti reconciliation process. President Ahmed has repeatedly stated that the door is open for opposition groups that wish to join the national reconciliation process based on the Djibouti agreement. The Government has, in this regard, continuously engaged with armed opposition groups, including the Hizbul Islam, and has also held consultations with influential clan leaders and elders and Islamic clerics in efforts to broaden domestic support for the stabilization of the country. Through the mediation role of the Islamic Clerics Council, the Hawiye Cultural and Unity Council and other influential clerics and clan leaders, the Government has reached out to insurgent groups and has succeeded in encouraging some of them to join the peace process. However, these engagements have proved to be challenging owing to the inflexibility on the part of hardline insurgents. In spite of these setbacks, the Government has continuously reiterated its readiness to broaden its base by including those opposition groups that renounce violence.

3. In the midst of a resurgence of fighting between Government forces and armed opposition elements, the Transitional Federal Government signed a declaration with



Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a on 21 June by which they agreed to cooperate in the political, security, humanitarian and development areas, in the spirit of the Djibouti agreement. A former official of the Hizbul Islam insurgent group, Sheikh Yusuf Mohamed Siad Inda'ade, was earlier included in the unity Government as Minister of State for Defence.

4. The Somalia Cabinet and Parliament continued to hold sessions in Mogadishu despite increasing attacks on the Government. On 18 April, Parliament, in an effort to meet some of the demands of opposition groups, unanimously voted to endorse the implementation of sharia law in the country. A cross-section of Somali society, including clan elders and scholars, welcomed the endorsement as a positive step and called upon the opposition groups to stop the fighting. Since early May, there have been intermittent attacks on Government forces, as well as targeted killings by insurgent groups, which culminated in the assassination on 18 June of Omar Hashi Aden, Somalia's Minister of National Security. On 22 June, the Transitional Federal Government declared a state of emergency following a Cabinet meeting that concluded that the increased attacks posed a serious threat to the country.

5. President Ahmed visited a number of countries in Africa and Europe. These included Belgium, Turkey, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Djibouti and the Sudan, where among other things he discussed the situation in Somalia and appealed for support to enable his Government to resolve the security situation in the country. President Ahmed also attended the thirteenth African Union Summit, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July, where he called for the urgent deployment of additional troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the strengthening of its mandate. During the Summit, the African Union expressed full support for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. The Summit endorsed the decisions taken earlier by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union Peace and Security Council calling upon the Security Council to impose sanctions on Eritrea for aiding the insurgents. The African Union also called upon the United Nations to impose a sea blockade and a no-fly zone to stop the flow of weapons and other supplies to the insurgent groups. After the Summit the President visited Ethiopia and Uganda to solicit support for the Transitional Federal Government.

6. In solidarity with the Government, officials of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) continued to make visits to Somalia. On 25 May, my Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, paid a visit to Mogadishu during which he held private discussions with President Ahmed at the presidential palace and attended a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Mogadishu. The Deputy Special Representative has also travelled to Mogadishu for consultations with senior officials of the Transitional Federal Government. His delegation briefed the Somali Cabinet on the status of pledges made at the international donors' conference in Brussels. They exchanged views on the way forward in the peace process, including the establishment of a joint security mechanism.

B. Security situation

7. The situation remains fluid. Insurgents have conducted repeated attacks on Villa Somalia and other strategic positions, such as the K4 junction and the seaport. The Transitional Federal Government, supported by AMISOM, currently remains in

control of the strategic southern districts of Mogadishu as well as the airport and seaport. On 7 May, a group of insurgents launched an attack on the presidential palace. Outnumbered Government forces succeeded in repelling the attack. A few days later, Government forces launched their first counter-attack in several months, in which they dislodged the insurgents from a number of strategic locations in Mogadishu. The insurgents launched yet another attack on 19 June, which the Government forces again successfully repelled.

8. At its thirty-third extraordinary session, held on 20 May, the IGAD Council of Ministers called upon the Security Council to impose a no-fly zone, except for humanitarian purposes authorized by the Government, on the airports of Kismayo, Baidoa, KM50, Balidoogle, Waajid and Hudur, all airports in Gedo region, Isaley and Johar. The Council of Ministers also "condemned in the strongest terms possible all the individuals, organizations and countries, in particular the Government of Eritrea and its financiers who continued to instigate, recruit, train, fund and supply the criminal elements in and or to Somalia".

9. At its 190th meeting, held on 22 May, the African Union Peace and Security Council expressed its strong support for the communiqué issued by the IGAD Council of Ministers and requested the Security Council, in line with relevant provisions of the IGAD communiqué, "to take immediate measures to impose a no-fly zone and blockade of sea ports, to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia, as well as flights and shipments carrying weapons and ammunitions to armed groups inside Somalia which are carrying out attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, the civilian population and AMISOM". It also requested the Security Council "to impose sanctions against all those foreign actors, both within and outside the region, especially Eritrea, providing support to the armed groups engaged in destabilization activities in Somalia, attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, the civilian population and AMISOM, as well as against all the Somali individuals and entities working towards undermining the peace and reconciliation efforts and regional stability".

10. Insurgent groups, such as Al-Shabaab, are alleged to be extorting money from private companies and recruiting young people to join the fight against the Government in Mogadishu, including child soldiers. Al-Shabaab has confirmed the presence of foreign fighters within its ranks and has stated openly that it is working with Al-Qaida in Mogadishu to remove the Government of Somalia. The foreign fighters, many of whom reportedly originate from Pakistan and Afghanistan, appear to be well trained and battle-tested. They have been observed wearing hoods, directing offensive operations against Government forces in Mogadishu and neighbouring regions.

11. Al-Shabaab has intensified its strategy to coerce and intimidate the Somali population, as reflected in the carefully selected "high gain" assassinations and arrests of clan elders, several of whom have been murdered. On 19 June, Omar Hashi Aden, the Minister of National Security, was killed in a large-scale suicide car bomb in Beletwyne. Over 30 other people were killed in the attack, which was strongly condemned by the international community and a broad cross-section of Somali society.

12. The countries neighbouring Somalia, as well as the broader international community, are considering how to further assist the Transitional Federal Government following its call for military and other assistance. The coming days

and weeks will be critical. The Government clearly needs urgent military support in areas of personnel, arms and logistics to sustain its success in warding off insurgent attacks and defending key installations. I, therefore, appeal to the entire international community to render urgent support to the Government of Somalia, without which it may not be able to establish itself.

III. African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

13. AMISOM has played an important role in stabilizing the security situation in Mogadishu in support of the Djibouti peace process. In accordance with the Mission's mandate to protect the Transitional Federal Institutions, support the political dialogue and national reconciliation, and facilitate humanitarian assistance, AMISOM troops are deployed in strategic locations in Mogadishu, including the presidential palace (Villa Somalia) and the Mogadishu airport and seaport. The presence of the peacekeepers has been vital in supporting the implementation of the peace agreement and enabling the Transitional Federal Government to function in Mogadishu. AMISOM is also providing support, including technical expertise and a financial contribution, for the process of re-establishing the Somali security forces.

14. As of 30 June, the troop strength of AMISOM in Mogadishu stood at 4,300 troops, or 54 per cent of the authorized strength of 8,000, comprising three battalions from Uganda and two battalions from Burundi. AMISOM is still four battalions short of its mandated strength of nine infantry battalions, plus maritime and air components. The surge of fighting in Mogadishu since early May has only occasionally targeted AMISOM, which continues to hold the key locations listed in my previous reports. AMISOM has called for the expeditious deployment of the support package in order to increase its capacity to effectively implement its mandate.

15. Steps are under way for the deployment of a third Burundian battalion, as well as for the commencement of the relocation of the AMISOM civilian mission leadership from Nairobi to Mogadishu. There is, however, an urgent need for additional troops for AMISOM so as to reach its authorized strength, especially in the face of continued attacks on the Government by the insurgents. The African Union Commission has consistently urged member States of the African Union and its partners to expedite the deployment of the additional troops. In the communiqué of its 194th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 16 June 2009, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the pledges by Sierra Leone and Malawi to contribute one battalion each to AMISOM and urged African Union member States and partners to provide the required logistical support for the early deployment of those battalions. Furthermore, the Peace and Security Council urged the African Union member States that had already pledged troops to AMISOM to urgently deploy them.

16. Meanwhile, AMISOM has initiated the deployment of its police component with the arrival of its Police Commissioner in Mogadishu on 18 June. The police component also includes a leadership team of six officers. A total of 89 police personnel, including trainers, advisors and mentors, have been recruited (out of the mandated 270) and will be deployed to Mogadishu to commence the crucial task of training the 10,000 members of the all-inclusive Somalia Police Force in line with the Djibouti agreement. The police training task force led jointly by the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AMISOM, which reports to the UNPOS-led security sector technical working group, is developing a UNDP-AMISOM programme of training, mentoring and advice for the Somali police.

IV. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

A. Resource mobilization

17. The United Nations and the wider international community organized a number of activities in support of Somalia. On 22 and 23 April, the United Nations and its partners successfully convened, in Brussels, an international conference in support of Somalia's security institutions and AMISOM. Donors pledged an amount in excess of \$213 million, in addition to pledges that were made in kind.

18. As at 24 June, confirmed pledges stood at \$182.8 million, including \$7.4 million for the newly established United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali Security Forces and \$30.6 million for the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. In addition, the Government of Somalia is reported to have received \$11.5 million, and the African Union about \$6.7 million. Nearly \$112.2 million is earmarked for disbursement through project implementation units that will shortly be established in Addis Ababa and Nairobi. Approximately \$3 million is expected to be disbursed for recovery and development through UNDP-Somalia.

19. The International Contact Group on Somalia held its 15th meeting in Rome on 9 and 10 June. At the meeting, members of the Contact Group observed that Somalia was at a very delicate period which offered great possibilities and cautious optimism, despite recent acts of violence. The Contact Group reiterated its support for the Government of Somalia and welcomed the efforts of President Ahmed to build a government of national unity, including all those who reject violence and believe in national reconciliation. Meanwhile, on 29 June, the Government of Somalia, with the support of bilateral and multilateral organizations, signed an agreement with Pricewaterhouse Coopers. According to the agreement, Pricewaterhouse will act as the Government's fiduciary management agent. This is a reflection of the Government's commitment to enhancing transparency and accountability in its management of public finances.

B. Institutional development

20. The United Nations continued to provide support to Somalia for institutional development and capacity-building under the Somali Institutional Development Project that was launched in January 2009. The support has mainly focused on the capacity development of civil servants and the provision of technical assistance in policy and law-making processes, budget-making and public finance management, human resource development and infrastructure support. As part of this programme, the United Nations trained over 120 civil servants in "Puntland" and almost 500 civil servants in "Somaliland" and established systems, policies and frameworks mandated to develop, review and maintain basic government processes in public financial management and civil service reform, among other areas.

21. As part of an effort to build the capacity of government personnel, UNPOS organized an induction course for senior staff of key ministries. The course was held at the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya in Nairobi, from 27 to 30 April. Furthermore, from 2 to 5 June, in Nairobi, UNDP organized a strategic action planning support induction workshop for senior officials of the Ministry of Constitution and Federal Affairs. The course clarified the Ministry's mandate in the constitution-making process, explored the way forward and reached an understanding on the assistance to be rendered by a consortium of international partners led by UNDP. This consortium supports constitution-building under the political guidance of my Special Representative.

C. Security sector institutions

22. In its resolution 1872 (2009), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to assist the Transitional Federal Government in developing the transitional security institutions and a national security strategy, including plans for combating illegal arms trafficking, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and justice and corrections capacities. The Council called upon the Government to develop a legal and policy framework for the operation of its security forces, including governance, vetting and oversight mechanisms, ensuring respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights. Progress on these tasks has been precluded by the prevailing security situation in the country, in Mogadishu in particular.

23. UNPOS, in collaboration with the United Nations country team and the donor community, and with the support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, continued to work with the Government towards revitalizing the Joint Security Committee that will remain a key interface between the Government of Somalia and the international community on all security-related issues.

24. UNPOS is also working with the donor community to develop plans for an urgent joint needs assessment, together with technical experts from the United Nations and the African Union. This is intended to encourage a coordinated approach among donors who have expressed the intention to provide support and training to the nascent National Security Force, including the police, to ensure that such support focuses on priority needs. The initial assessment is planned to commence in the next few months.

25. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1872 (2009), the United Nations continues to support the Transitional Federal Government in developing a national security strategy, including the preparation of a proposal to establish a consultative dialogue process with Somalis and interested international actors. This Government-led and UNPOS-facilitated process will draw on the expertise and knowledge of the entire United Nations family. It will culminate in the production of a strategy that will identify the goals and requirements of Somalia's security, justice and corrections sectors during the transition period and provide guidance to the assistance programmes of international partners.

26. Following pledges made at the Brussels donor conference to support the recruitment, training and payment of stipends for the 10,000 Somali police officers in south-central Somalia by June 2010, UNDP started making preparations to refurbish and resupply two training facilities in Mogadishu. However, the delivery

of equipment has been postponed owing to the ongoing fighting. Training for new police officers from south-central Somalia started on 13 July at the Armo Police Training Academy in "Puntland". The training is being conducted by the 80 Somali police trainers who graduated from the joint UNDP/Ugandan Police Force programme.

27. The registration of the Somali National Security Force has started. Members of the Somalia Police Force trained by UNDP have received stipends corresponding to the first six months of 2008. The prevailing security situation has made it difficult for further payments to be made to all those trained in the past. Alternative means of payment are being explored.

28. Despite the difficult security environment, the Police Advisory Committee continued to operate in Mogadishu, where it is monitoring the situation of detainees. The Committee is one of the civilian oversight structures that was established and assigned to all 18 Mogadishu police districts, following a 2008 Amnesty International report that documented gross violations of human rights allegedly committed by the Government forces. The Committee's membership includes parliamentarians, clan elders, journalists, representatives of the business community and the Association of Women. Its fundamental role is to ensure that the police officers respect the rule of law and human rights law. In the ongoing violence, the head of police in Mogadishu, who was a senior member of the Committee, was killed.

D. Activities of the United Nations in support of the African Union mission

29. In line with Security Council resolutions 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009), the United Nations continued to provide planning expertise to the African Union in support of the deployment and operations of AMISOM. During the reporting period, United Nations planners assisted the African Union in its efforts to generate additional military contingents for AMISOM, including by providing briefings and producing relevant planning documents for potential troop-contributing countries and African Union partners. Following a request from the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, United Nations planners also helped to review the rules of engagement of AMISOM with a view to enabling it to take more robust action within its existing mandate. United Nations planners in Addis Ababa also worked to develop deployment and logistical requirements planning for the AMISOM police component, in order to expedite its relocation to Mogadishu.

30. In addition to building the capacity of the AMISOM mission analysis cell, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support Situation Centre facilitated a familiarization and training visit for AMISOM personnel to the Joint Mission Analysis Cell at the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and provided sample planning, policy and reporting documents to support the development of the AMISOM mission analysis centre. The Situation Centre also provided AMISOM with informal guidance on substantive and administrative issues on a daily basis.

31. In an effort to counter negative media propaganda waged by the insurgency, United Nations planners helped the African Union to finalize its media strategy, launch a monthly newsletter and develop designs for an expanded website. These

tools are intended to highlight AMISOM activities in Mogadishu and raise awareness of its mandate among potential troop-contributing countries, donors and the Somali diaspora. United Nations planners also continued to assist in the planning for the AMISOM FM radio station due to be launched as part of the logistics support package.

32. The Secretariat continued to plan for a future United Nations peacekeeping operation to follow on from AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations refined and updated operational planning for the military, police and civilian components of a potential United Nations peacekeeping operation, including a detailed contingency plan for its possible maritime component. Subject to the security situation in Mogadishu, the Department plans to visit Mogadishu in the near future to test planning assumptions against local conditions and develop updated advice ahead of the September 2009 report requested by the Security Council in resolution 1872 (2009).

33. With the approval by the General Assembly in April 2009 of \$71.6 million for United Nations logistics support to AMISOM, the Department of Field Support has focused its efforts, through the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), on deploying rapidly specialized support equipment and material primarily from the strategic reserve stocks in the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy; developing and the training of AMISOM; providing critical life support through supplemental rations and ration reserves; and enhancing existing commercial medical evacuation capabilities to improve the responsiveness and mobility of AMISOM.

34. A significant consignment worth \$15 million has been released from the strategic deployment stocks in UNLB and arrived in Mombasa, Kenya on 14 July. The shipment includes key infrastructure items, namely generators, refrigeration units, catering equipment, prefabricated buildings and sanitation systems in addition to medical equipment and armoured vehicles. These essential assets will be used by AMISOM to upgrade its infrastructures and improve its mobility and reserve capacity in Mogadishu and by UNSOA to establish its support base in Mombasa.

35. Key equipment from the strategic deployment stocks pre-positioned in Entebbe in April 2009, including one airfield firefighting truck, information and communications equipment and related infrastructure, is being used to provide critical training to AMISOM and will be deployed alongside trained personnel to Mogadishu. The remaining equipment, including critical field defence stores, a mobile airfield lighting system, medical and pharmaceutical supplies and expendables, has been deployed onward to Mogadishu.

36. A training package has been developed on critical United Nations equipment. To date, 6,000 hours of training have been provided for approximately 100 AMISOM troops over a period of two months. This initial training focused on Strategic Communications, firefighting, medical first aid and trauma care, erection of prefabricated units, property management and movement control principles. A refresher training is to be conducted in July until troops are deployed into theatre. Additional firefighting training has been requested by AMISOM. The training will be conducted in Entebbe through the end of August 2009.

37. In addition to the deployment of critical equipment and supplies, the Department of Field Support is putting in place life support and logistics

arrangements. The contract for delivery of rations to AMISOM has been secured and is expected to be operational in August. In the interim, weekly delivery of combat rations packs to supplement fresh food supplies has commenced. This transitional measure serves to provide tactical flexibility to the troops operating under Phase V security conditions, where the need to have rations in close proximity is essential.

38. Medical evacuation capacity remains a critical component of support especially in light of the recent volatility of security in Mogadishu. Short-term arrangements for commercial medical evacuation capacity have been enhanced. The Department of Field Support is working closely with the Department of Safety and Security to assess the feasibility of supply flights to AMISOM.

39. Additionally, one of the priority components of the support package urgently sought by AMISOM is the construction of a force headquarters and level-II hospital in Mogadishu, allowing AMISOM to expand from a military mission to an integrated civilian, police and military one. This facility is critical if AMISOM is to accomplish its mandate. UNSOA is planning an approach which addresses the immediate and longer-term operational requirements. The requirements for the construction of a level-II hospital and force headquarters have been released to vendors and a contract award is expected in August.

40. The Department of Field Support has commenced the procurement process to transition from the existing interim arrangements to long-term United Nations contracts to be phased in from 1 August. The General Assembly recently approved \$139 million for the start of the new budget year. This level of funding effectively provides for logistics support operations to continue for only some four months under existing plans. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to present a full-year budget for the 2009/10 budget by October 2009. It will be submitted shortly.

41. A memorandum of understanding has been presented to the African Union for final consideration. The memorandum of understanding defines the support services to be provided by the United Nations and is designed to establish the necessary internal controls to ensure that the provision of equipment and services by the United Nations is done in a transparent manner, consistent with the relevant Security Council resolutions. The United Nations welcomes the confirmation by the Government of Kenya for the United Nations logistics support base for AMISOM to be established in Mombasa.

42. Preparations are under way to build up essential security infrastructure for the establishment of a small semi-permanent presence in Mogadishu, based on several onsite assessments conducted by UNSOA and the Department of Safety and Security. In peacekeeping operations, the presence of international staff in the area of operation is a critical for the management and delivery of support. As and when security conditions permit, UNSOA will aim to establish a small footprint in Mogadishu that could be used by UNPOS and the United Nations country team. Until that time, interim oversight mechanisms will continue using United Nations, African Union and contracted personnel, to achieve the core objectives.

V. Humanitarian situation

43. The humanitarian situation in Somalia has seriously deteriorated as a consequence of the intensified fighting in Mogadishu since 7 May, worsening drought countrywide and growing insecurity in most parts of south-central Somalia.

44. The recent spate of fighting has left a trail of destruction, civilian casualties and renewed mass displacement. More than 250 civilians were killed and 900 others wounded, according to local hospital sources. The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that an estimated 204,000 people who had recently returned to their homes in Mogadishu were again displaced to safer areas within Mogadishu or to settlements for internally displaced persons in the city's outskirts. Some have fled to the Afgooye corridor, while others journeyed to more distant locations. Despite the recent fighting in and around Mogadishu, humanitarian agencies were largely able to continue humanitarian operations, but with difficulty. On 20 June, the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to temporarily suspend the distribution of cooked meals to the most vulnerable people in Mogadishu, owing to insecurity. In the course of the next six months, WFP will need \$136 million to feed more than 3 million people throughout Somalia.

45. In May, 458,400 internally displaced persons were provided with food assistance in the Afgooye corridor, where a third of the newly displaced are located. Vulnerable populations, including malnourished children, received food assistance under various programmes. More than 250,000 internally displaced persons and their host communities benefited from clean piped and trucked water, improved sanitation conditions and hygiene promotion. In addition, mitigation efforts to prevent cholera outbreaks continued, benefiting over 163,000 people. Shelter and other non-food items were distributed to more than 50,000 people, while about 13,000 hygiene kits and 1,100 clean delivery kits were distributed to pregnant women.

46. Violence against humanitarian agencies and staff continued throughout the reporting period. On 17 May, Al-Shabaab forces took control of Jowhar town and looted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) compound, deliberately destroying humanitarian supplies, assets and equipment. The vaccine storage equipment was damaged, destroying thousands of doses of measles, polio and other vaccines intended for Somali children and women. Highly valuable nutritional supplies for the prevention of malnutrition, for 40,000 children under three years of age, were also looted. As of 7 July, the compound remained occupied by militiamen and inaccessible to UNICEF staff. The control of Jowhar by Al-Shabaab has had country-wide humanitarian implications, since Jowhar is the main hub for the provision of services and supplies to south-central Somalia. The ability of UNICEF to respond to critical needs and support a large network of non-governmental and community-based organizations was severely affected. More than 100 non-governmental and community-based organizations rely on UNICEF for supplies and technical assistance in the areas of health, nutrition, education and protection.

47. Direct attacks against humanitarian workers have continued, with six humanitarian workers killed during the first five months of 2009 and seven kidnapped. Sixteen humanitarian workers abducted in 2008 remain in captivity. In June 2009, Médecins Sans Frontières-Belgium announced that it would pull out of Bakool region. This is a serious setback for the region, since it was the last

remaining non-governmental organization in the area following the forced suspension of activities by the International Medical Corps (IMC) in October 2008.

48. The food security assessment reports for April-June 2009 indicate that the overall food security situation in many parts of Somalia will remain precarious over the coming six months. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, poor rainfall in combination with several successive seasons of below normal rainfall have resulted in poor pasture. This led to decreased livestock productivity and value in central and northern Somalia. The drought in northern Somalia is affecting the livelihoods of more than 700,000 pastoralists and a significant number of urban households whose income and food sources are linked to livestock marketing and trade. In total, at least 3.2 million people, 43 per cent of the country's population, will continue to require humanitarian assistance and livelihood support through September 2009.

49. UNHCR reported that the number of migrants and asylum-seekers attempting the dangerous voyage across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen increased by 30 per cent in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. As of 14 June, nearly 28,000 people, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, had arrived at the Yemen coast. In response, UNHCR and its partners have stepped up their efforts to deter people from boarding smugglers' boats at the main departure point in Bossaso, "Puntland".

50. While the humanitarian needs of Somalia remain high, funding received in response to the consolidated appeal, at the end of June 2009, covered only 44 per cent of the \$984 million requested. Low funding of the water and sanitation and health sectors is of particular concern, as they are interlinked and complementary. It is important for the international community to make urgent contributions to enable the humanitarian community to increase access to clean water and deliver health services.

VI. Human rights and protection of civilians

51. There has been a marked deterioration in the human rights situation in Mogadishu as a result of the recent spate in fighting. Violations of international humanitarian law which have been reported in this context may in some instances amount to war crimes. Testimony gathered from refugees and displaced persons alleges that insurgents may have used civilians as human shields by taking the conflict into areas populated or frequented by civilians. Repeated, inaccurate and indiscriminate exchanges of mortar fire resulted in numerous civilian deaths and injuries. Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee Mogadishu. Death threats and intimidation were also frequently reported. Journalists covering the conflict have faced particular risks. Since January 2009, six journalists have been killed in Mogadishu, four of whom appear to be victims of targeted assassinations, while the others were killed and several others injured in the crossfire while reporting on the conflict.

52. Some refugees who fled the country stated that they had done so to avoid recruitment of their children by the insurgent groups. UNICEF has documented the extensive recruitment and training of children, some as young as nine years old, with some reportedly deployed to the front lines. Insurgent groups are also reported to be forcing girls into marriage. On 12 June, the Government of Somalia condemned and expressed its profound concerns about the use of child soldiers (less

than 18 years of age). Beyond child recruitment, children have been gravely affected by the situation, with reports of children killed, maimed, separated from families and exposed to sexual and gender-based violence.

53. In parts of south-central Somalia, extreme interpretations of sharia law by the insurgent groups have led to allegations of grave violations of the right to life and physical integrity. Summary executions, including beheadings, floggings, amputations, arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of movement and violations of women's rights have been reported. Observers are concerned by reports of what seem to be limitations on the right to freedom of assembly and expression. Journalists are reported to have effectively exercised self-censorship as a result of targeted assassinations. In "Puntland", the authorities continue to express their commitment to human rights. Nonetheless, concerns were raised about cases in which the death penalty was imposed under circumstances where the judicial process was considered unfair. Limited access to justice, particularly for women, the lack of capacity of the judiciary and, at times, the discriminatory application of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are some issues of concern.

VII. Piracy

54. Since my report of 16 March 2009 on the subject of Somali piracy (S/2009/146), the International Maritime Bureau has reported an exponential increase in activity by pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin, with 61 incidents reported during the first quarter of 2009, compared to 6 in the same period in 2008. The Bureau reports that from the beginning of 2009 through early June, there were 29 successful hijackings in the region.

55. Military naval operations in the region have played a key role in reducing the number of successful hijackings off the coast of Somalia, highlighting the need for these operations to continue. Notably, in January 2009, one in every six hijackings was successful, this figure falling to one in every 13 for the month of March. This is directly attributable to effective patrolling of the seas, the escorting of groups of vessels registered with the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa) along a transit corridor, and to a lesser degree, incidents of bad weather.

56. However, as a result of the military presence in the region, pirates have employed more daring operational tactics, operating further seawards, towards the Seychelles, and using more sophisticated weaponry. It has also been noted by military naval operations in the region that the attacks in the Somali Basin appear to be highly organized and more systematic.

57. Since my last report on piracy (S/2009/146), military naval coalitions and Member States have continued their efforts to enhance the safety of commercial maritime routes and international navigation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. The levels of cooperation and coordination exhibited by all Member States combating piracy in this region, both individually and collectively have increased.

58. On 15 June 2009, the Council of the European Union decided to extend the mandate of Operation Atalanta for one year from its current end date of 13 December 2009. On 12 June 2009, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization decided to extend its counter-piracy operations in this region. Australia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Pakistan have since joined Combined Task

Force 151 (CTF-151) which continues its operations in the region. In addition, the Russian Federation, China, Malaysia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan have also deployed vessels to the region as part of the international efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia.

59. On 29 May 2009, the United States convened the third meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia in New York. This meeting considered, *inter alia*, mechanisms for the apprehension and prosecution of suspected pirates, the establishment of an effective coast guard for Somalia and the region and the creation of an international trust fund to finance anti-piracy activities. It remains critical that in the long term, the issue of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia be resolved through an integrated approach that addresses the conflict, lack of governance and absence of sustainable livelihoods on land in Somalia. In line with this view, the United Nations has proposed the establishment of an additional working group of the Contact Group to examine land-based initiatives to combat piracy.

60. In addition, the United Nations country team, in consultation with UNPOS, is finalizing a framework document that seeks to build on previous successful projects and to scale up its operations to make a substantive difference in standards of living along the coast and in the interior of Somalia in an effort to combat piracy. It is expected that this framework will be ready for submission to donors in July.

61. The United Nations is exploring the prospects for helping Member States to ensure the prosecution of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. This approach is consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1851 (2008), which encourages regional capacity-building. To this end, the relevant United Nations offices will be coordinating system-wide efforts to build on the considerable work already undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Maritime Organization to assist regional Member States in conducting prosecutions. This approach should lead to increased participation and the sharing of the burden of prosecutions by States which have been leading the efforts to fight impunity for acts of piracy.

62. As requested by the Security Council, I will report in November 2009 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1846 (2008) of 2 December 2008 and on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery in territorial waters and the high seas off the coast of Somalia.

VIII. Observations

63. I am deeply concerned by attempts to use force and violence to topple the Transitional Federal Government. This has come at a time when the Government is making concrete progress towards fulfilling its transitional agenda, which the population has increasingly welcomed. The attempts by elements opposed to peace and stability to seize power by force from the legally constituted and internationally recognized Government must not be allowed to succeed. Every effort must be made to assist the Government and enable it to exercise its authority countrywide for the sake of the Somali people.

64. I welcome the continued commitment of President Ahmed and his Government to form an inclusive administration in Somalia, as reflected in the agreement

reached with the group Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and certain elements of Hizbul Islam. I also appeal to the international community not to waver in the face of the recent upsurge in fighting. The presence of fundamentalist foreign fighters in the midst of the opposition groups is unacceptable in that such elements have their own international agenda. I urge IGAD and the African Union to continue working with my Special Representative on encouraging the insurgents and other opposition elements to work towards peace in Somalia.

65. It is important that the international community heed the call made by the African Union member States at their summit meeting held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July to honour the commitments made at the Brussels donor conference and the International Contact Group meeting in Rome to support the Government of Somalia. For the Government to increase its legitimacy and to broaden its base, we must invest in building the capacity of the security institutions and improve its capability to deliver public services and employment opportunities. Creating youth employment and enhancing the livelihood of ordinary Somalis need to be given priority, as they would have a positive impact on the hearts and minds of ordinary Somalis. I urge Member States and regional organizations to expedite the provision of contributions to the United Nations trust funds and bilateral support pledged at the Brussels conference, and to coordinate closely with the United Nations.

66. I strongly urge Member States to support the strengthening of AMISOM through bilateral aid and the Trust Fund for AMISOM established during the Brussels donor conference, and to urgently contribute troops to AMISOM so that it can reach its authorized troop strength of 8,000. I pay tribute to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their determination to demonstrate the African Union's solidarity with the people of Somalia and commend AMISOM forces and their outgoing Force Commander for the excellent work done under extremely difficult conditions.

67. I remain committed to pursuing the three-track approach which was outlined in my previous report (S/2009/210) and endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1872 (2009). In this regard, we are working towards the speedy implementation of Council resolutions 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009) on the provision of United Nations logistics support to AMISOM. However, this support to AMISOM is dependent on the availability of the necessary funds. A short-term and temporary approach to funding requirements limits a field mission in undertaking longer-term strategic planning critical to its objectives, has implications for procurement arrangements and undermines efforts to attract experienced staff. I encourage Member States to cooperate closely in ensuring that UNSOA can establish operations based upon full-year funding.

68. I am encouraged by ongoing international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. I am grateful to all Member States and regional organizations that have ensured that WFP- and United Nations-contracted vessels are able to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance to Somalia and the United Nations support package for AMISOM. I would also like to call upon other Member States, with the required capacity, to join in this effort. It is important that those countries engaged in the anti-piracy effort coordinate their activities in collaboration with the Government of Somalia and provide assistance to the building of the capacity of the Somali coast guard and the Somali judicial system.

The United Nations will continue to work with regional actors that are assisting in the prosecution of pirates and to help build the capacity of Somalia to take ownership of deterrents and prosecution of pirates.

69. The recent violence has worsened the humanitarian crisis in the country. This is a source of deep concern. I call once again upon Member States to lend their support to priority recovery programmes in the United Nations Transition Plan for Somalia. The continued fighting has increased the need to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in the country. I pay tribute to the humanitarian workers who are operating under an increasingly hostile environment, especially in the south-central regions of the country. Their sacrifices to save Somali victims do not go unnoticed.

70. It is with deep concern that I note reports of the recruitment and the training of children less than 18 years of age in the hostilities in Somalia. The recruitment of such children is a violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, and constitutes, in some cases, a war crime. I call upon those responsible for these recruitments to discontinue this practice and allow any such children to return to their families immediately.

71. Somali law and international treaties ratified by Somalia guarantee all accused a fair trial and prohibit gender-based discrimination, corporal and cruel punishments, such as amputations and floggings, as well as summary executions. I remind all local, regional and national authorities, as well as the de facto authorities, to immediately refrain from such practices.

72. The civilian population is bearing the brunt of the conflict in Somalia. It is imperative that all measures be taken to protect the civilians, in particular, the most vulnerable. I remind those who are perpetrating such violations to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law, especially the protection of civilians, and warn them that certain violations of international humanitarian law amount to war crimes.

73. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, for his continued dedication and commitment to the advancement of peace and national reconciliation among the people of Somalia. I also pay tribute to the United Nations country team and all other organizations and their staff members who are working tirelessly under difficult conditions in the country. I call upon the Somalis and Member States to continue extending to my Special Representative their unwavering support and cooperation.



Security Council

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Letter dated 16 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In view of the upcoming consultations by the Security Council on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you to the esteemed members of the Security Council, the explanatory notes on the work of the National Elections Commission and the modified time frame for the elections (see annexes).*

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only.



Annex I to the letter dated 16 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

**Notes on the Work of the
National Elections Commission.**

By Abel Alier

The National Elections Commission (NEC) was established toward the end of 2008. Its wide powers and functions are defined in the National Elections Act, 2008.

The Commission is guided, in its work, by three important documents: the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), 2005, the Interim National Constitution (INC), 2005 and the National Elections Act (NEA), 2008.

The CPA

The CPA is a historic agreement whose provisions include power and wealth sharing arrangements; it emphasizes the need for restoration of peace, justice and reconciliation, between the people of the North and South; it provides for decentralization as a system of government; it provides for self-determination for the people of the Southern Sudan, either to adopt the system of governance agreed by the two parties for the interim period or to opt for secession. Before the conduct of the referendum for self-determination the two parties are bound to make unity attractive for people of the Southern Sudan, and it provides for implementation modalities, to ensure implementation of all its terms within a specific time frame.

Significantly the two partners to the CPA agreed to open up to a peaceful, democratic exercise of public power through political pluralism that includes opposition political parties and to conduct periodically, free and fair general multi-party elections.

The Interim National Constitution and the National Elections Act, constitute the constitutional and the legal framework of the CPA.

The National Elections Commission (NEC)

The Commission is composed of nine members, selected and appointed by the President of the Republic, with the consent of the First Vice President and the approval of two-thirds majority of members of the National Assembly, taking into consideration inclusiveness of representation, to include women and other civil society groups.

Powers and functions of the Commission are defined by the Interim National Constitution and the National Elections Act. The Commission is an independent and impartial body. Its main task is to organize and conduct general elections in an orderly way, with freedom and justice.

The Commission has established its institutions, including a Secretariat General, headed by a competent and experienced Secretary General, four Standing Committees (Communication and Coordination, Register, Electoral Constituencies, Technical Affairs and Southern Affairs and states High Committees), led by some members of the Commission. There are three departments which work with the Secretary General on administrative and financial matters, Information and Technology and Public Relations.

Budget of the Commission

The Elections Budget for 2009 has been prepared by the Commission and submitted to the Presidency of the Republic for inclusion within the General Annual Budget of the State. It is a substantial budget, 1.1 (one point one) billion US Dollars, considering the complexity of these elections as indicated below.

Complexity of the Elections

There will be elections for the President of the Republic, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan and 25 Governors – 15 for the Northern States and 10 for the Southern States. These are known as executive elections. There will be elections for the legislative assemblies: the National Assembly, the Assembly for the Southern Sudan and 25 State Assemblies, in the whole country. The legislative elections will be partly direct and partly indirect elections that is to say direct elections and proportional representation. There are no appointments to the legislative bodies and for the election of the President of the Republic and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan; a vote of 51% is required for a candidate to get elected; otherwise a second vote is required for the first two candidates in the order of results of the first poll.

The Constitution and the law provide for 60% of seats for the geographical constituencies; 25% of the seats for women and 15% of the seats for the political party lists.

The seats in the National Assembly are 450. Hence 270 seats will be for geographical constituencies; 112 seats for women and 68 seats for the political party lists.

All the executive and legislative elections will be conducted at the same time.

Rules and Regulations.

The election law is supplemented by Rules and Regulations which have been prepared by a technical committee, led by competent and experienced lawyers; they were vetted and passed by the Commission. The Rules and Regulations constitute an important part of the National Elections Act.

26 High Committees.

The election law provides for establishment of 26 High Committees, one for the Southern Sudan and 25 for all the twenty five states of the Sudan.

The High Committees have been appointed. Each High Committee is composed of five members, including a leader. In addition to the High Committees there are 25 Chief Elections Officers.

The Commission has delegated substantial powers and functions to the High Committees. They are independent of the executive and the legislative bodies, just as the Commission is independent of such bodies. The High Committees are directly responsible to the Commission for everything they do, including establishing branch committees. The Three Towns (Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman) have three branch committees.

Training, Civic Education and Voter Awareness.

Staff of the Commission and voters will be given opportunities for training and education. Voters occupy a central position in the whole electoral process. They deserve to know their political and human rights, under the Interim National Constitution, to make and unmake public leaders. Voters should also be made aware of their duties. They should register and should vote on policies and programmes of political parties and individual candidates..

Information.

The Commission invited Professor Ali Mohamed Shummu and other prominent information experts, to assist it in establishing an information strategy for providing equal opportunities to all the 69 political parties, in the media. The Commission is in the process of establishing a media center which should be well equipped.

Observers.

The Commission has invited local, regional and international observers to monitor the elections, from beginning: demarcation of geographical constituencies, voters' registration, nomination of candidates, campaign and polling, to the end: counting of votes and the announcement of the election results.

A number of observers have already applied to acquire observer status. These include the Carter Center.

Observers have rights and obligations. They have freedom of movement from one part of the country to another as they observe the electoral process; they have right of residence and they are guaranteed the security of their person and property. The observer is free to observe the whole electoral process or only a part of it.

The Commission and the Political Parties.

The Commission has established liaison with political parties as required by the elections law; High Committees are also required to be encouraged to liaison with political parties in their respective areas. Political parties are expected to take a substantial share of voters' education, even though they may generally also need more enlightenment from the Commission.

A number of meetings have, so far, been arranged and conducted with individual political parties. More of such meetings are expected and encouraged by the Commission.

In these meetings a number of concerns have been raised; they include demarcation of geographical constituencies, registration of voters, role of the current popular committees in identifying voters, cost of ID cards which many voters can hardly afford, the need for financial assistance by the government to about 69 registered political parties. Some of the concerns raised are outside the competence of the Commission.

Cooperation with foreign governments, regional and international organizations.

The Commission has established channels of cooperation with governments, regional and international organizations, including the UN system. Committees have been established by the Commission and these bodies, to manage areas and substance of cooperation. Through these channels the Commission has received pledges of financial, material and other technical support for the electoral process. The UN bodies, in particular UNDP and UNMIS, have been active in mobilization of assistance; states like USA, Italy, Royal Kingdom of Netherlands, UK and Japan have made generous contributions through third parties, such as the UNDP.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation have played and still play, instrumental roles to secure support for the electoral process.

Time-frame of Elections.

A Time Schedule for the electoral process was set in February, 2009 and published by the Commission. Polling, counting of votes and announcement of results was fixed in the Time-schedule as 27.2.2010. Demarcation of geographical constituencies was fixed for 1st March, 2009, as indicated in the Time-Schedule. But progress of work depended on census results and delimitation of North-South borders. Delay of census results and North-South borders delimitation have affected the electoral process, tabulated in the Time-Schedule. For instance, time schedule for demarcation of geographical constituencies had to be changed from 1st March - 15th April and again from April 15th to the end of May. This was also the case for North-South Border demarcation.

Due to delay of public announcement of the census count and North-South border demarcation, some readjustment of the Time-Schedule has become necessary. The census results were presented to the Commission, by the Presidency on 6th May 2009; the North-South Border demarcation will be completed, on paper, in September and on the ground, in December, 2009. This means some readjustment of some geographical constituencies at North-South Borders may have to be made in or after December, if necessary.

Governors, county commissioners, legislators, political parties and others, are advised to have a look at the Time-Schedule as set for the electoral process and to expect some adjustments, occasioned by the delays.

Penalties.

The National Elections Act provides for penalties against contraventions of its provisions. Some of the penalties in the law are justifiably stiff.

There will be special courts to look into complaints relating to violations of the elections law. Candidates, their agents, political parties and election officials are expected to familiarize themselves with these relevant provisions of the law.

Sportsman-like Spirit.

Competition in elections between candidates of different political parties is like a football game in which two or more football teams are competing. There is a referee who directs the play, according to the rules of the game. A referee observes the rules and applies them strictly but fairly; final results are accepted by all, with a sportsman-like spirit.

The role of the National Elections Commission is like that of the **Football Referee**. The National Elections Act and its Rules and Regulations are the Commission's guides within the framework of the CPA and the Interim National Constitution. The Commission, like the Football Referee, will observe and apply justly the Elections Law and its Rules and Regulations.

The Commission is committed to and bound by the principles of **free, fair and transparent elections**.

**Annex II to the letter dated 16 July 2009 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic and English]

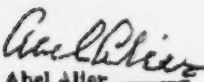
The National Elections Commission

Modified Elections Time-Frame

Date	Election Process	Act
Wed. 10/6 /2009- Thu. 9/7/2009 (30) days	Demarcation of constituencies	Period proposed by RCTC
Fri. 10/7/2009	First publication of constituency demarcation	Article 39(1)
Sun. 12/7 /2009 – Mon. 10/8/2009 (30) days	Objections to constituencies demarcation	Article 39(2)
Mon. 10/8/2009 – Sat. 15/8/2009 (5) days	Consideration of objections and proposals by NEC.	Period recommended by RCTC
Sun. 16/8/2009	Second publication including amendments of boundaries of geographical constituencies.	Article 39(3)
Mon. 17/8/2009 – Sun. 30/8/2009 (14) days	Submission of objections to courts	Article 40
Mon. 31/8/2009 – Sun. 6/9/2009 (6) days	Courts decisions on boundaries of geographical constituencies.	
Mon. 7/9/2009 – Sun. 12/9/2009 (5) days	Amendments of constituencies' boundaries after issuance of courts decisions. Preparation of final draft of boundaries of constituencies.	

Sun. 13/9/2009 – Sat. 31/10/2009 (45) days	Preparation for registration and training of participants in the elections process.	
Sun. 1/11/2009 – Mon. 30/11/2009 (30) days	Registration period.	
Tue. 1/12/2009	First publication of the register.	
Wed. 2/12/2009 – Wed. 9/12/2009 (8) days	Objections to the register.	Article 24(1)
Thu. 10/12/2009 – Tue. 13/12/2009 (5) days	Consideration of objections to the register.	Article 24(2)
Wed. 16/12/2009	Publication of amendments of the register.	
Thu. 17/12/2009 – Thu. 31/12/2009 (15) days	Objections to amendments of the register	Article 24(3)(B)
Fri. 1/1/2010 – Tue. 5/1/2010 (5) days	Consideration of amendments of the register.	Article 24(4)
Tue. 5/1/2010	Final publication of the register.	
Wed. 6/1/2010 – Sat. 16/1/2010 (11) days	Candidates' applications for nominations.	
Sat. 16/1/2010	Closing date of nominations.	Article 61(1)
Sun. 17/1/2010	Publication of candidates' names.	

Mon. 18/1/2010 – Mon. 25/1/2010 (8) days	Appeals to courts by candidates whose nominations were rejected.	Article 46(1)
Tue. 26/1/2010 – Mon. 1/2/2010 (7) days	Courts decisions.	Article 46(2)
Tue. 2/2/2010	Final publication of nominations.	Article 47
Wed. 3/2/2010	Last day for withdrawal of nominations at all levels.	Article 48(2) Article 61(1)
Thu. 4/2/2010 – Sun. 4/4/2010 (60) days	Election campaign period.	Article 54(1)
Mon. 5/4/2010 – Mon. 12/4/2010 (8) days	Polling, sorting and announcement of results	


Abel Alier
Chairman NEC



**Security Council**

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21 July 2009

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Identical letters dated 20 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following my letter dated 16 July 2009 (S/2009/365), I wish to draw your attention to two additional severe violations of resolution 1701 (2006) that only exacerbate the incident that took place in Khirbat Slim on 14 July 2009.

During the first incident — on 17 July 2009 — 15 Lebanese civilians crossed the Blue Line near a UNIFIL position adjacent to the Shuba village. The group penetrated 175 metres into Israeli territory and planted there Hizbullah and Lebanese flags. These individuals subsequently returned across the Blue Line back into Lebanese territory.

During this incident, UNIFIL refrained from taking any action to prevent the crossing of these individuals into Israeli territory. Some of the organizers of this violation even claimed that they had coordinated their actions with UNIFIL. In that regard, in an interview on 17 July 2009 on Lebanese NTV, Mr. Qassem Hashem — a member of Lebanese parliament and one of the organizers of the illegal action — offered the dubious claim that their actions were coordinated with the relevant authorities, including UNIFIL. In any case, given the proximity of the violation to a UNIFIL position, Israel would have expected that UNIFIL intervene in time to prevent this violation.

Such violations jeopardize the fragile stability along Israel's northern border and stand in contravention of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), in particular paragraph 8 that calls for "full respect for the Blue Line by both parties". The aforementioned incident is another clear reminder that there are elements in Lebanon that seek to undermine resolution 1701 (2006) and the stability of the region.

Israel calls upon the Government of Lebanon to exercise its authority and prevent such violations of the Blue Line that endanger the stability along our mutual border. In addition, Israel calls upon the Secretary-General to exercise his influence and to ensure that UNIFIL will prevent any future incidents from occurring.

Another serious incident took place in Khirbat Slim over the weekend in which 14 peacekeepers of UNIFIL were injured by so-called Lebanese "civilians" after attempting to search a suspicious house in this area. UNIFIL vehicles were also damaged during the incident.



This severe episode — in the same place where an arms cache of the terrorist organization Hizbullah exploded on 14 July 2009 — verifies that Hizbullah consistently obstructs the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) by building new military infrastructure south of the Litani River, and by preventing UNIFIL from fulfilling its mandate, including by using civilians in a violent manner to obstruct UNIFIL's mission. The presence of arms in southern Lebanon, as well as this obstruction of movement, reflects a pattern that must be confronted. In order to ensure that the area south of the Litani River is indeed "an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL", the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL must re-adapt their activity to the new reality in which Hizbullah is rebuilding its military infrastructure south of the Litani River within the civilian population.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Security Council

Distr.: General

21 July 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 20 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 13 July 2009 from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and current Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Communiqué of the thirty-third extraordinary session (extraordinary No. 3) of the IGAD Council of Ministers on the security and political situation in the subregion, in particular Somalia (see annexes). It would be greatly appreciated if you could circulate the letter together with its annexes as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fesseha A. Tessema
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex I to the letter dated 20 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write in my capacity as the current Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The IGAD Council of Ministers held its thirty-third extraordinary session on 10 July 2009 in Addis Ababa and considered the worsening security situation in Somalia and its implications for lasting peace in Somalia and the region. The Council of Ministers in particular discussed the role of foreign fighters engaged in attempts to topple the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. We were unanimous in our conclusion that the present crisis in Somalia is not the result of fighting among and between Somalis. What we see is a virtual aggression against the people of Somalia by foreign fighters who appear to have an agenda that goes beyond Somalia. The overall situation is very serious.

It is in the light of this that we in IGAD decided a few weeks ago to send an IGAD delegation led by the Foreign Minister of the Transitional Federal Government to New York for meetings with members of the Security Council. I wish to thank you for all the cooperation that our delegation received at that time. We have now felt again, following the Sirte African Union summit and the historic decision that it had adopted on Somalia, that an IGAD ministerial delegation should be sent again to the Security Council. The delegation is given a mandate from member States of IGAD to explain to Your Excellency and members of the Security Council how the situation in Somalia is precarious and how action on the part of the Council is so urgent. The delegation is slated to be in New York starting from 21 July. I am writing this to ask for your support and cooperation to ensure that the IGAD delegation's visit to the Security Council would be productive and would achieve its objectives.

(Signed) Tekeda Alemu
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs

Annex II to the letter dated 20 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the thirty-third extraordinary session (extraordinary No. 3) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Council of Ministers on the security and political situation in the subregion, in particular Somalia

Addis Ababa, 10 July 2009

The thirty-third extraordinary meeting (extraordinary No. 3) of the IGAD Council of Ministers was convened at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 July 2009 to discuss the developments in Somalia since the thirty-third extraordinary session, No. 2, held on 29 June 2009 in Sirte, Libya, and to chart the way forward. The Council was chaired by H.E. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers. The Council received briefs from the Somali delegation and the IGAD Facilitator for the Somali Peace and Reconciliation Process. The meeting was attended by H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; H.E. Mohamed A. Omaar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; H.E. Richard Onyonka, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; H.E. Isaac Musumba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Cooperation) of the Republic of Uganda; H.E. Muheidin Salem, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Ethiopia; and H.E. Mahboub M. Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Kipruto arap Kirwa, IGAD Facilitator for Somalia Peace and National Reconciliation, H.E. Ramtane Lamamra, representing the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Mr. Walid Musa Abdelkarim, representing the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Somalia; and H.E. Raffaele de Lutio, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy and Chairperson of the IGAD Partners Forum.

After deliberating at length on the prevailing political and security situation in the subregion, especially Somalia, since its extraordinary session (extraordinary No. 2) of 29 June 2009, the Council:

1. *Affirms* that the Djibouti Peace Process constitutes the legal and legitimate framework on which the Somalia Parliament and Government have been established. The Djibouti Peace Process shall remain the only valid process for the implementation of peace and reconciliation in Somalia until August 2011. In this regard, the Council welcomes the signing on 21 June 2009 of the agreement of cooperation between the Transitional Federal Government and Ahalu-Al-Suna Wa-Aljmad;

2. *Recalls* the African Union Assembly decision of 3 July 2009 and that of the IGAD Heads of State and Government contained in their communiqué issued in Sirte, Libya, on 30 June 2009, *calls upon* the United Nations Security Council to take immediate measures to positively respond without further delay and upon the African Union Peace and Security Council to follow this matter with the utmost urgency;

3. *Condemns* the continuing military aggression against Somalia aimed at the forceful removal of the legitimate government of Somalia;

4. *Recognizes* that this military aggression is no longer a fight between and among the Somali people but one instigated by foreign elements that has resulted in many civilian deaths and massive internal displacement;

5. *Further calls upon* the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council to review the rules of engagement of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in light of current developments to enable the forces to enhance their response mechanism, so as to better protect their personnel, equipment and key installations and provide effective support to the Transitional Federal Government, but to also engage in active defence operations;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Security Council to review its resolution 1725 (2006) of 6 December 2006 (para. 4) to enable the frontline states to meaningfully support the Transitional Federal Government, as requested by the Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions;

7. *Reiterates* its earlier decisions and *calls upon* the Security Council to urgently review its contingency plans with regard to deploying a United Nations peacekeeping force to Somalia in light of the current situation;

8. *Expresses* appreciation to the troop-contributing countries to AMISOM, namely, Uganda and Burundi, for the sacrifices they continue to make to advance the cause of peace and stability in Somalia, *calls upon* the countries that have made pledges, including Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana and others, to immediately make available battalions of troops to AMISOM, and *urges* all the other countries that have pledged to contribute troops to AMISOM to deploy them without further delay for the sake of peace in the region;

9. *Affirms* the critical importance of the proposals contained in the Communiqué issued by the fourteenth extraordinary summit of IGAD, held on 30 June 2009 at Sirte, Libya, and the thirteenth African Union summit of 3 July 2009, particularly the request made to impose targeted sanctions on the State of Eritrea, which continues to provide assistance to the extremists, including foreign forces, who continue to cause indiscriminate deaths and humanitarian crisis to the people of Somalia;

10. *Further reiterates* its earlier decision (thirty-first extraordinary Council of Ministers of 21 December 2008), and *now takes* immediate action to impose sanctions upon certain individuals and entities, including travel bans, freezing of assets and other measures, in and outside Somalia, which have become obstacles to the achievement of peace in Somalia. In this regard IGAD member States will identify, draw up and share a list of individuals and organizations to be sanctioned. Each member State shall appoint a liaison officer to coordinate the information with the Office of the IGAD Facilitator;

11. *Calls upon* each IGAD member State, alongside those States bordering Somalia, to intensify border surveillance and establish a coordinating mechanism to monitor and identify the movement of negative elements to and from Somalia and take appropriate measures;

12. *Commits* the Governments of IGAD member States individually and collectively to support the cause of peace and security in Somalia and provide all necessary coordinated support for capacity-building of the Somalia Security Forces and public sector management;

13. *Expresses further appreciation* to all the countries and organizations that made financial and other pledges in support of the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM at the international pledging conference held in Brussels on 22 and 23 April 2009, *calls for* the immediate disbursement of pledges without preconditions, and further *calls on* the African Union and United Nations pledge-tracking teams to intensify their engagements with the pledging countries and institutions;

14. *Recalls* its earlier decision, as contained in the communiqué of 27 January 2009, the decision of the African Union Summits of July 2008 at Sharm-el-Shiekh, February 2009 at Addis Ababa and July 2007 at Sirte (para. 17), and United Nations Security Council resolution 1862 (2009), yet to be implemented, and *calls upon* the State of Eritrea to end its occupation of Djiboutian territories and desist from its destabilization agenda against Djibouti;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Done at Addis Ababa on 10 July 2009



Security Council

Distr.: General
22 July 2009

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1864 (2009), 1825 (2008), 1796 (2008) and 1740 (2007), and the statement of its President of 5 May 2009 (S/PRST/2009/12),

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Nepal and its ownership of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements,

Recalling the signing on 21 November 2006 by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the stated commitment of both parties to find a permanent and sustainable peace, and commending the steps taken to date to implement the Agreement,

Acknowledging the strong desire of the Nepalese people for peace and the restoration of democracy and the importance in this respect of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements by the relevant parties,

Expressing its continued readiness to support the peace process in Nepal in the timely and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements, in particular the 25 June 2008 Agreement, as requested by the Government of Nepal,

Welcoming the progress the Constituent Assembly has since made towards writing a new democratic constitution of Nepal within the stipulated time frame since the successful conclusion of the Constituent Assembly elections on 10 April 2008,

Noting with concern recent developments, and encouraging renewed and sustained efforts to create a unified approach among the political parties, including through the proposal for a high-level consultative mechanism as a forum for discussion on critical peace process issues,

Calling upon the Government of Nepal and all political parties to work together to ensure the early reconstitution and effective working of the Special Committee for the supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel, drawing upon the support of the Technical Committee,



Echoing the Secretary-General's call for all parties in Nepal to move forward swiftly in the implementation of the agreements reached, *noting* the Secretary-General's assessment that the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) will be well placed to assist in the management of arms and armed personnel in accordance with the 25 June 2008 Agreement between the political parties, and recognising UNMIN's willingness to assist the parties in this, as requested, in order to achieve a durable solution,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 14 July 2009 on UNMIN,

Recalling the completion of two phases of the verification process and *welcoming* continuing assistance with the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides in accordance with resolution 1740 (2007) and in line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, *noting* the importance of a durable long term solution in helping to create the conditions for completion of UNMIN's activities, *noting* also in this regard the need to address outstanding issues without further delay, and *welcoming in this regard* the decision by the Government of Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) formally to launch the discharge and rehabilitation process for the disqualified Maoist army personnel, including minors, and *calling upon* all political parties to implement this process fully and expeditiously, and for continued reporting on this issue as required under resolution 1612 (2005),

Recalling that with the successful holding of the Constituent Assembly elections, some of the elements of the mandate of UNMIN as set out in resolution 1740 (2007) have already been accomplished,

Welcoming the action plan which the Government of Nepal has committed to prepare, the implementation of which will facilitate UNMIN's withdrawal from Nepal,

Taking note of the Government of Nepal's letter to the Secretary-General of 7 July 2009 (S/2009/360), which recognises UNMIN's contribution and requests an extension of the mandate of UNMIN for six months, and further taking note of the commitments of the Government of Nepal to reconstitute the Special Committee strengthened with the support of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, and also for beginning the process of integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel,

Recognizing the need to pay special attention to the needs and the role of women, children and traditionally marginalized groups in the peace process, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and resolution 1325 (2000),

Recognizing the need to address impunity and to promote and protect human rights through building the capacity of independent national institutions,

Recognizing that civil society can play an important role in democratic transition and conflict prevention,

Expressing appreciation for the contribution of the Secretary-General's Representative and the efforts of her team in UNMIN, and the United Nations Country Team, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which is monitoring human rights at the request of the government, and *stressing* the need for coordination and complementarity of efforts between the mission and all the United Nations actors in the mission area, particularly in order to ensure continuity, as the mandate comes to an end,

1. *Decides* in line with the request from the Government of Nepal and the Secretary-General's recommendations, to renew the mandate of UNMIN as established under resolution 1740 (2007) until 23 January 2010, taking into account the completion of some elements of the mandate, the ongoing work on the monitoring and the management of arms and armed personnel in line with the 25 June Agreement 2008 among the political parties, which will support the completion of the peace process;

2. *Calls upon* all parties to take full advantage of the expertise and readiness of UNMIN, within its mandate, to support the peace process to facilitate the completion of outstanding aspects of UNMIN's mandate by 23 January 2010;

3. *Concurs* with the Secretary-General's view that the current monitoring arrangements were conceived as temporary measures, rather than long-term solutions, and cannot be maintained indefinitely, and *underlines* the need for the Government of Nepal to consider necessary measures to end the present monitoring arrangements;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council by 30 October 2009 on the implementation of this resolution, and progress in creating the conditions conducive to completion of UNMIN's activities by the end of the current mandate, including the implementation of commitments made in the Government of Nepal's letter of 7 July 2009;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of Nepal to continue to take the necessary decisions to create conditions conducive to completion of UNMIN's activities by the end of the current mandate, including through implementation of the 25 June 2008 Agreement, in order to facilitate UNMIN's withdrawal from Nepal;

6. *Welcomes* progress achieved so far, and *calls upon* all political parties in Nepal to expedite the peace process, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation, consensus and compromise in order to continue the transition to a durable long-term solution to enable the country to move to a peaceful, democratic and more prosperous future;

7. *Requests* the parties in Nepal to take the necessary steps to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of UNMIN and associated personnel in executing the tasks defined in the mandate;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.



Security Council

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22 July 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 20 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, I have the honour to submit a report on the activities of the Working Group since the submission of its last report on 11 July 2008.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the enclosed report issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Claude **Heller**

**Annual report on the activities of the Security Council
Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict,
established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005)
(1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009)**

I. Introduction

1. On 26 July 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict.
2. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Council decided to establish a working group of the Security Council to review the reports of the mechanism referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution, to review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans mentioned in paragraph 7 of the resolution and to consider other relevant information presented to it. The Council decided further that the working group should:
 - (a) Make recommendations to the Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to the parties to the conflict;
 - (b) Address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the United Nations system for action to support implementation of the resolution in accordance with their respective mandates.
3. Pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005), the Chairman of the Working Group submitted reports to the Council on developments in relation to the Working Group for the periods from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (S/2006/497), from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (S/2007/428) and from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (S/2008/455). Since the issuance of the latter report, the Working Group has held five formal meetings, on 25 July, 5 September, 14 November and 19 December 2008 and on 24 February 2009.
4. On 1 January 2009 the chairmanship of the Working Group was transferred from France to Mexico.

II. Substantive issues addressed

16th meeting

5. At its 16th meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar (S/2007/266). Those conclusions were published as document S/AC.51/2008/8. The Chairman of the Working Group then carried out the tasks entrusted to him in the context of those conclusions, including by drawing the attention of the Security Council to the need to follow up on the recommendations addressed to it.
6. The Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Uganda (S/2008/409). The Special Representative of the

Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) The United Nations country team was not able to confirm that all children and women abducted or recruited into the ranks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had been released, as stated by a delegation of that group;

(b) LRA should provide immediately a list of the names and ages of all children and women remaining in its ranks;

(c) The violations committed by LRA in Uganda had decreased because the group was operating elsewhere (southern Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic), where grave violations had been reported;

(d) The Government of Uganda was thanked for its continuous cooperation and the establishment of an action plan.

7. The Representative of Uganda presented the point of view of her Government. The Working Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Working Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

8. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions subsequently adopted by the Working Group at its 18th meeting (S/AC.51/2008/13).

9. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Working Group on her visits to Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

17th meeting

10. At its 17th meeting, on 5 September 2008, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka (S/2007/758) and in the Philippines (S/2008/272). Those conclusions were published as documents S/AC.51/2008/10 and S/AC.51/2008/11, respectively. The Chairman of the Working Group then carried out the tasks entrusted to him in the context of those conclusions, including by drawing the attention of the Security Council to the need to follow up on the recommendations addressed to it.

11. The Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Chad (S/2008/532). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the Secretary-General's report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) Little had changed since the last report of the Secretary-General: recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict had been reported throughout the year;

(b) The recruitment and use of children in Chad was also related to the regional dimension of the conflict, with Sudanese armed groups recruiting children inside Chadian territory including in and around refugee camps;

(c) The Chadian authorities should fulfil their responsibility to protect girls, the main victims of rape and other sexual violence, fight against impunity for the perpetrators and provide girls with the required assistance;

(d) Chad was among the most affected countries in the world in terms of victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance;

(e) A significant number of incidents targeting humanitarian personnel and assets by parties to the conflict had been reported.

12. The Permanent Representative of Chad presented the point of view of his Government. The Working Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Working Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

13. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions subsequently adopted by the Working Group at its 18th meeting (S/AC.51/2008/15).

14. Hilde Johnson, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), then presented the Secretary-General's "horizontal note", placing particular emphasis on the situation of children in Sri Lanka, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Georgia:

(a) In Sri Lanka, the escalation of the conflict had led to a substantial deterioration of the security situation, particularly in the north, impeding the operations and safe access to children by humanitarian actors;

(b) In Côte d'Ivoire, which was no longer officially on the Working Group's work plan owing to the cessation of reports of child recruitment, other grave violations continued to be perpetrated against children, in particular killing and maiming as well as rape and other sexual violence;

(c) In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, grave violations against children continued to take place, especially in North and South Kivu and Province Orientale. The main perpetrators of those violations included the following armed groups: Congrès national pour la défense du peuple, Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, Coalition des patriotes résistants congolais and other Mai Mai groups, as well as Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (integrated and non-integrated brigades) and the Congolese National Police. Rape and other sexual violence continued to be a grave concern;

(d) The situation in Georgia, especially regarding the lack of access for humanitarian agencies to South Ossetia and its surrounding security zone, was worrying.

18th meeting

15. At its 18th meeting, on 14 November 2008, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Nepal, Uganda, Somalia and Chad (S/2008/259, S/2008/409, S/2008/352 and S/2008/532). Those conclusions were published as documents S/AC.51/2008/12, S/AC.51/2008/13, S/AC.51/2008/14 and S/AC.51/2008/15,

respectively. The Chairman of the Working Group then carried out the tasks entrusted to him in the context of those conclusions, including by drawing the attention of the Security Council to the need to follow up on the recommendations addressed to it.

19th meeting

16. At its 19th meeting, on 19 December 2008, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2008/693). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) Despite the engagement of the Council and the extensive work of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, the situation for children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained catastrophic;

(b) The re-ignition of conflict in the past several months was a subject of deep concern;

(c) Efforts to fight impunity had to be redoubled, taking into account the widespread sexual violence against girls and boys;

(d) The regional dimension of the conflict implied the necessity for the States concerned to enhance their cooperation;

(e) Long-term development strategies and the allocation of appropriate funds to support the efforts of UNICEF and child protection partners on the ground were necessary.

17. The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented the point of view of his Government. The Working Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Working Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

18. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions subsequently adopted by the Working Group at its 21st meeting, on 1 July 2009 (S/AC.51/2009/3).

19. Also at its 19th meeting, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan (S/2008/695). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) The deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan had resulted in a growing number of children associated with armed groups including the Taliban, who used them increasingly as suicide bombers;

(b) Numerous attacks on schools by the Taliban and its proxies had resulted in over 230 schools being attacked in a one-year period;

(c) The use of children by the armed groups had also led to an increase in the detention of children by both the Afghan security forces and the international military forces;

(d) The killing and maiming of children continued to be a significant problem;

(e) Sexual violence remained a problem primarily for boys, through the practice of *bacha baazi* where young boys are taken in and sexually exploited while also providing entertainment for commanders and warlords;

(f) Impunity remained a major problem;

(g) The situation for children required a concerted international response, in particular the strengthening of the United Nations country team;

(h) The first child protection adviser to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan had been assigned.

20. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan presented the point of view of his Government. The Working Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Working Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

21. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions subsequently adopted by the Working Group at its 21st meeting, on 1 July 2009 (S/AC.51/2009/1).

22. Louis Georges Arsenault, Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Office of Emergency Programmes of UNICEF, then presented the Secretary-General's "horizontal note", placing particular emphasis on the situation of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan:

(a) In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation in the east had significantly deteriorated. All parties to the conflict were reported to be recruiting children, including through mass recruitment drives, rendering the 33,000 children already released in the past years particularly vulnerable to re-recruitment;

(b) In the Sudan, children continued to be associated with armed groups in southern Sudan and in the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile State and Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains). In Darfur, recent reports mentioned children being associated with Chadian armed opposition groups, especially in West Darfur.

23. At the same meeting, with respect to the issue of working methods, the Working Group received an answer to its letter dated 5 September 2008 addressed to the Chairman of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. That letter, dated 18 December 2008, included three sets of answers regarding Secretariat involvement in support of subsidiary bodies and working groups of the Security Council, the consultation process and the modalities of creation, by each body, of its own working methods.

20th meeting

24. At its 20th meeting, on 24 February 2009, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/2009/66). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) The first report on the Central African Republic highlighted the fact that children had been consistently recruited and used by non-State armed groups, including Government-backed self-defence militias, and showed trends of rape and other grave sexual violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict throughout the territory;

(b) The report noted the use of abductions, especially in the north-west, by non-State armed groups and armed bandits as a means of recruiting children and to threaten and extort ransom from the population;

(c) The report acknowledged the significant challenges in addressing grave violations against children in the Central African Republic and outlined a series of recommendations to put an end to those violations.

25. The Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic presented the point of view of his Government. The Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

26. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions subsequently adopted by the Working Group at its 21st meeting on 1 July 2009 (S/AC.51/2009/2).

27. At its 20th meeting, the Working Group also discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan (S/2009/84). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions:

(a) The third report highlighted important ongoing initiatives by the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan in areas such as adoption of national legislation for the protection of children, establishment of child protection modalities in the national police force and focus on children in the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process;

(b) The report showed that children continued to be recruited and used by all parties to the conflict, that rape and sexual violence continued to be systematic and widespread and that children and women in and around refugee camps and internally displaced persons' settlements were especially vulnerable;

(c) The report also showed alarming levels of attacks against humanitarian personnel and assets, particularly in Darfur, and the denial of humanitarian access to affected populations mainly owing to acute insecurity;

(d) The report noted limited progress in establishing child protection dialogue with parties to the conflict.

28. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan presented the point of view of his Government. The Working Group then held an exchange of views and, following the discussion, the experts were given the task of negotiating draft conclusions of the Working Group that would provide concrete follow-up to the Secretary-General's report.

29. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of the State concerned and of the exchange of views among the members of the Group will be

reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions to be formally adopted by the Working Group at its next meeting.

30. Monika Sandvik-Nylund, Advocacy and Policy Specialist of UNICEF, presented the Secretary-General's "horizontal note", placing particular emphasis on the situation of Sri Lanka and Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory:

(a) In Sri Lanka, the security situation in the north and east of the country continued to deteriorate, adversely affecting the protection, survival and development of children. Lack of access impeded the ability of victims and their families to report child rights violations and of the United Nations to effectively verify child rights violations in the Vanni and conflict-affected Government-controlled areas. The resumption of open fighting particularly in the Vanni increased the risk of children being killed, maimed and made vulnerable to other forms of exploitation and abuse by all parties to the conflict;

(b) In Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory the rapid deterioration in the seriousness of the conflict had resulted in intolerable consequences for children. That specific issue had been addressed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in the frame of her visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

31. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict briefed the Working Group on her visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stressing the importance of improving the accountability process and of access for humanitarian assistance. A written report would be presented to the Human Rights Council.

Debate on children and armed conflict

32. On 29 April 2009 the Security Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict, which was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, and attended by the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Executive Director of UNICEF and Grace Akallo, a former child soldier from Uganda.

33. At the end of the open debate, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement on this matter (S/PRST/2009/9).